AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a marketplace with hosted supplier stores comprising the steps of:

providing tools for creating and managing a hosted supplier store to each of a plurality of suppliers through a commerce site, said tools including a catalog facility for uploading and managing a supplier catalog for said hosted supplier store;

receiving a plurality of supplier catalogs from said plurality of suppliers;

aggregating said plurality of supplier catalogs into an aggregated catalog; and

providing a buyer with access to said aggregated catalog and separate access to at least one of said plurality of supplier catalogs on said commerce site.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

providing a supplier hub catalog topology; and

wherein said step of aggregating includes aggregating said supplier catalogs according to said supplier hub catalog topology.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said supplier catalogs include shared marketplace products and supplier-specific products;

said buyer accesses said aggregated catalog through one of said hosted supplier stores owned by one of said suppliers; and

said step of aggregating includes aggregating said shared marketplace products from all of said suppliers with said supplier-specific products from said one of said suppliers.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

receiving contract data from one of said suppliers, said contract data including entitlement information for said buyer in relation to a product; and

wherein the step of providing said buyer with access includes filtering said aggregated catalog based upon said entitlement information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further including:

receiving a buyer request for said product; and

wherein said step of filtering includes identifying hosted supplier stores offering said product, identifying eligible contracts within said identified hosted supplier stores, retrieving entitlement information from said eligible contracts, and applying said retrieved entitlement information, wherein said entitlement information includes pricing.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

providing said buyer with trading mechanisms for generating orders for items within said aggregated catalog;

developing requests for quotations for made-to-order items; and

negotiating contracts between said suppliers and said buyers.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer program having a computer-readable medium tangibly embodying computer executable instructions for creating a marketplace with hosted supplier stores, the computer executable instructions comprising:

computer executable tools for creating and managing a hosted supplier store through a commerce site, said tools including a catalog facility for uploading and managing a supplier catalog for said hosted supplier store;

computer executable instructions for receiving a plurality of supplier catalogs from said plurality of suppliers;

computer executable instructions for aggregating said plurality of supplier catalogs into an aggregated catalog; and

computer executable instructions for providing a buyer with access to said aggregated catalog and separate access to at least one of said plurality of supplier catalogs on said commerce site.

8. (Original) The computer program of claim 7, further including:

computer executable instructions defining a supplier hub catalog topology; and

wherein said computer executable instructions for aggregating include computer executable instructions for aggregating said supplier catalogs according to said supplier hub catalog topology.

9. (Original) The computer program of claim 7, wherein:

said supplier catalogs include shared marketplace products and supplier-specific products;

said buyer accesses said aggregated catalog through one of said hosted supplier stores owned by one of said suppliers; and

said computer executable instructions for aggregating include computer executable instructions for aggregating said shared marketplace products from all of said suppliers with said supplier-specific products from said one of said suppliers.

10. (Original) The computer program of claim 7, further including:

computer executable instructions for receiving contract data from one of said suppliers, said contract data including entitlement information for said buyer in relation to a product; and

wherein said computer executable instructions for providing said buyer access to said aggregated catalog includes computer executable instructions for filtering said aggregated catalog based upon said entitlement information.

11. (Original) The computer program of claim 10, further including:

computer executable instructions for receiving a buyer request for said product; and

wherein said computer executable instructions for filtering include computer executable instructions for identifying hosted supplier stores offering said product, identifying eligible contracts within said identified hosted supplier stores, retrieving entitlement information from said eligible contracts, and applying said retrieved entitlement information, wherein said entitlement information includes pricing.

12. (Original) The computer program of claim 7, further including the steps of:

computer executable instructions for providing said buyer with trading mechanisms for generating orders for items within said aggregated catalog;

developing requests for quotations for made-to-order items; and

negotiating contracts between said suppliers and said buyers.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for online commerce between multiple buyers and multiple suppliers, the system comprising:

a member subsystem for registering buyers and suppliers, whereby registered buyers are permitted to access said system for online commerce, and registered suppliers are permitted to access said system to create and manage a hosted supplier store;

a database having stored thereon a plurality of supplier catalogs uploaded by said registered suppliers for a plurality of said hosted supplier stores;

a catalog subsystem for aggregating said plurality of supplier catalogs into an aggregated catalog; and

an application server for providing said registered buyers with access to said aggregated catalog and separate access to at least one of said plurality of supplier catalogs on said commerce site.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said database further includes a defined supplier hub catalog topology, and wherein said catalog subsystem aggregates said supplier catalogs according to said supplier hub catalog topology.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein:

said supplier catalogs include shared marketplace products and supplier-specific products;

said registered buyer accesses said aggregated catalog through one of said hosted supplier stores owned by one of said registered suppliers; and

said catalog subsystem aggregates said shared marketplace products from all of said registered suppliers with said supplier-specific products from said one of said registered suppliers.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

a contracts subsystem including contract data received from one of said registered suppliers, said contract data including entitlement information for said registered buyer in relation to a product; and

wherein said contract subsystem filters said aggregated catalog based upon said entitlement information before said application server provides said registered buyer with access to said filtered aggregated catalog.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said entitlement information includes item pricing information.

18. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a trading subsystem providing a transaction mechanism adapted for said registered buyers to generate orders for items within said aggregated catalog, develop requests for quotations for made-to-order items, and to negotiate contracts with said suppliers.

19. (Currently Amended) An online marketplace for commerce between multiple buyers and multiple suppliers, said online marketplace comprising:

a plurality of hosted supplier stores each managed by a respective registered supplier, said hosted supplier stores each including a supplier catalog containing a hierarchy of categories, products, and saleable items uploaded by said respective registered supplier;

an aggregated catalog containing a hierarchy of categories, products, and items that includes an aggregation of said supplier catalogs;

trading mechanisms, including item ordering and requests for quotations for items; ~~and~~

a supplier hub through which a registered buyer browses said aggregated catalog and utilizes said trading mechanisms; and

a supplier store through which the registered buyer browses the supplier catalog.

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20. (Original) The online marketplace of claim 19, further including:

a plurality of contracts between registered buyers and registered suppliers, each of said contracts including entitlement information for one of said registered buyer in relation to a product of one of said registered suppliers; and

an entitlement-based filter for filtering said aggregated catalog based upon said entitlement information for a selected registered buyer, thereby enforcing one of said contracts.

Claims 21-25 (Cancelled)